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## AN INTERESTING RELIC

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Among the books and papers of the late Dr. A. W. French, of Springfield, Illinois, was found an old blank book the binder's title on the back of which is "Minutes of Springfield, Ills., 1832-1840." On the fly leaf of the book is written: "Minutes of Board of Trustees of the Village of Springfield, Illinois, of its meetings from April 1832 (first meeting) to the organizing of a city in 1839."

The book gives the minutes of the meetings from the organization of the board of trustees of which Charles R. Matheny was made president and D. Dickinson, secretary, *pro tempore*.

At the second meeting Simeon Francis was appointed clerk of the board. On May 30, 1832, at an extra meeting of the board, leave was granted to introduce a bill changing the day of market. This bill passed unanimously.

On July 19, 1832, at an extra meeting of the board the following preamble and some resolutions were read and passed: "Whereas, we have information that the Asiatic cholera is now prevailing in Chicago, and whereas, it becomes the duty of the trustees to guard the town from infection from that source," etc. The usual orders were then made as to the cleaning of the town, etc. On November 14, orders were given out that the court house be fitted up as a hospital in case it was needed for the cholera patients.

In 1834 an order was made that C. R. Matheny and C. Sanderson be authorized to contract for the building of a wooden bridge across the ravine east of the court house

on the public square and also across the ravine on the same street between Madison and Jefferson streets, the bridges to be fifty feet in length; and that seventy-five dollars be appropriated for the purpose.

In March, 1834, it was moved that Erastus Wright be allowed five dollars for assessing the property of the town of Springfield for 1833, but a resolution was offered and carried, that Mr. Wright be allowed ten per cent of the money collected and turned over to the treasurer. Consequently he received \$23.60.

On January 11, 1836, the president of the board informed it that he had by its direction employed E. D. Baker to prepare a digest of the ordinances of the town. Mr. Baker being present read to the board a copy of the digest. This bill for an ordinance was read and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

On March 3, 1836, the president of the board was ordered to advertise "in both the public papers printed in this town" for proposals for grading and paving with brick, with curbs of timber or stone, the sidewalks fronting the lots on the public square, also flag footways from corner to corner of the four streets leading from the public square; the sidewalks to be twelve feet wide, the footways to be four feet wide, with curbs of stone.

On this same date a resolution was offered and passed authorizing C. R. Matheny, P. C. Cannedy and James L. Lamb to act as a committee to negotiate a loan from the State Bank of Illinois on the faith of the corporation for a time not exceeding one, two and three years, for the sum of one thousand dollars, to be expended in the paving of the sidewalks and making footways for the public square.

At a meeting held on October 20, 1837, Dr. A. S. Henry, one of the commissioners for erecting the State House laid a communication before the board from L. Davis, Esq., State Auditor, stating that "unless the first installment of the bond for fifty thousand dollars entered into

by our citizens for the erection of the State House shall be paid no further money can be advanced by him for the prosecution of the said work." The trustees entered into plans for raising the money and on December 7, 1837, it was ordered that the town treasurer be directed to deposit in the State Bank of Illinois to the credit of John D. Whitesides, treasurer, the sum of nineteen thousand six hundred and sixty-six dollars, sixty-seven cents, to be endorsed on the bond given by the citizens of Springfield for the payment of fifty thousand dollars.

On February 26, 1838, they had again to make a payment on the fifty thousand dollars and they borrowed \$16,666.67 from the State Bank of Illinois for that purpose, for which a petition was signed and personal security was given. These are some of the items of interest which appear in this early record book in which the names of all the prominent citizens of early Springfield appear.

The book is in an excellent state of preservation.